Project Fact Sheet

California Biomass Consortium

GOALS

- To establish a California Biomass Consortium.
- To administer a coordinated and focused statewide program of biomass research, development, demonstration, and deployment, education and training, public outreach, policy, and standards.
- To link the diverse set of players in biomass energy in California to support further biomass energy development in California.
- To support the development biomass electric generation capacity that improve the cost, value, environmental and public health costs/risks, reliability, quality, and safety of California electricity, and in maximizing the market connectivity of biomass technologies developed through the PIER program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Because biomass energy development in California is beset by a confluence of several issues, a California Biomass Consortium was created to serve as a unique forum to address these issues and provide coordination to enhance the development of sustainable biomass energy systems for the state. The Consortium will also provide additional expertise to the Commission in helping to achieve timely review and implementation of policy concepts and proposed system and technology innovations. The Consortium plans to accomplish the goals through the close cooperation of representatives of the State of California, its universities and academic institutions, the state's biomass and energy industries and environmental organizations, agencies and laboratories of the federal government, and other organizations and institutions.

The objectives of the Consortium are to:

- Organize and manage a diverse consortium advisory group (the Consortium) to provide immediate expertise in areas pertaining to biomass energy including technologies, resources, design, siting, construction, operation and maintenance, generation, and modeling.
- Organize an Executive Board to administer the overall function of the Consortium.
- Enlist staff to carry out the day-to-day and project oriented activities of the Consortium.
- Establish a physical focal point for biomass energy related questions/activities in the state.
- Develop topical papers specific to California that evaluate existing biomass resource inventories and the potential for new biomass resource development and markets. In addition, the papers will assess technical, economic, and environmental performance of current and potential future biomass power generation systems that address California electricity needs with respect to reducing congestion and increasing peak generating capacity. These papers will be designed to establish the background for bioenergy development in the state and to generate recommendations, directions, and priorities for policy, research, demonstration, education, standards, and other activities and projects needed to advance biomass power systems.

- Support statewide biomass-related GIS modeling efforts and enhance state level biomass inventory data.
- Create a California Biomass Facilities Reporting System to provide up-to-date information on biomass power facilities and facility performance.
- Develop a Consortium web site for disseminating and improving public access to biomass information, data, white papers, and Consortium activity reports.



BENEFITS TO CALIFORNIA

- Establishment of a physical focal point for biomass energy related issues and solutions and other related activities in the state.
- Facilitation of biomass conversion to energy that will help alleviate waste disposal and environmental degradation associated with many agricultural, forestry, and municipal waste handling practices, and stands to enhance state production of green electricity, clean fuels, and oxygenates in the future. For example, integrated biomass conversion concepts such as biorefineries could in the future improve the overall efficiency and provide clean fuels and oxygenates, electricity, heat, and cooling.
- Biomass could also fuel local and distributed power systems operating in cogeneration or trigeneration mode so as to increase efficiency and reduce overall electric load demand, especially for peaking power.

FUNDING AMOUNT

PIER Funds: $415,716
Match Funds: $0

PROJECT STATUS

Signatures for the contract are being sought.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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